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BUREAU OF FISHERIES
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Juneau, Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FISHERIES

Juneau, Alaska, November 1, 1926.

ANNUAL REPORT OF WORK IN SOUTHEASTERN
ALASKA FOR 1926.

Noted Room

The first active field operations of the Bureau began with the usual annual seal patrol at Sitka Sound and vicinity, and the writer left Juneau on board the Bureau boat "Auklet" on April 24, 1926, arriving at Sitka, April 26, 1926.

The number of fur seal taken were as follows:

18 male	- April 13, 1926.
7 "	- May 27, 1926.
1 "	- June 7, 1926.
10 " 3 female, 1 unborn pup,	- June 9, 1926.

These skins were officially authenticated on the following dates:

18 on April 27, 1926.
7 on May 28, 1926.
15 on June 10, 1926.

and attention is invited to daily reports for these dates and special report of June 10, 1926.

The reasons for the small catch were, first: inclement weather which would endanger the lives of the sealers, and second: that there was only one boat's crew willing to go out inasmuch as there was no prospect of an immediate sale of the skins.

An attempt was made by a merchant to have the Indians furnish a given number of seal skins under contract, but when explained to the Indians that this was contrary to the intent of the law, nothing further was done in the matter.

During the stormy weather in May, and while waiting for the Indians

to go out sealing, 31 streams were marked 500 yards from the mouth in protected bays and inlets, - 17 in the central district and 14 in the southern district.

In conformity with the policy of the Bureau, 31 stream watchmen were placed in closed areas and in bays and inlets to protect streams in the following districts:

Northern district - 2 on June 10, 1926.
1 " " 14, 1926.
1 " " 15, 1926.
5 " " 16, 1926.
4 " July 1, 1926.

Central District - 4 on June 16, 1926.
8 " July 1, 1926.

Southern District - 2 on June 16, 1926.
4 " July 1, 1926.

On July 1, 1926, three boats were chartered with a special warden on each to patrol the following areas:

"MURRELET" - from Petersburg to Grave Point, to head of Seymour Canal, to Round Rock, across Frederick Sound to Cape Bendel, to Cape Ommaney, to Red Bluff Bay, and then back again to Petersburg.

"GLORIA" - from Sitka all bays and inlets through Peril Straits, to Hoonah Sound, to Basket Bay, to Point Thatcher, along Baranoff shore to Red Bluff Bay, to Pybus Bay, back along the Admiralty Island shore to Hood Bay and Killisnoo, and return to Sitka.

"DIANA" - from Port Alexander, Cape Ommaney, to Sitka Sound, to Olga Strait, to Krestof Sound, to Salisbury Sound, to Slocum Arm, along west coast to Chichagof Island, to Cape Bingham, to Lisianski Strait, to Miners Island, and return to Port Alexander.

The following traps, gill nets, and seine boats were operated during the season North of 58° North Latitude.

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Traps</u>	<u>Gill Nets</u>	<u>Seine Boats</u>
Astoria & Puget Sound Canning Co.	7		12
Deep Sea Salmon Co.	15	6	16
Booth Fisheries	4	6	8
Pacific American Fisheries	9		
P.E. Harris & Co.	6		
Libby McNeill & Libby, Taku Harbor	7		
Sunny Point Packing Co.	7		
Alaska Consolidated Canneries	5		
Haines Packing Co.		20	8
	<u>60</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>53</u>

The following traps and seine boats were operated in the Central district during the season in Frederick Sound, Stephens Passage, Chatham Strait and Peril Strait, South of 58° North Latitude.

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Traps</u>	<u>Seine Boats</u>
Alaska Consolidated Canneries, Tenakee	3	
Alaska " " Pybus Bay	5	5
Sunny Point Pkg. Co. Funter Bay	1	
Sunny Pt. Pkg. Co. Kake	9	9
Geo. T. Myers	4	9
Libby McNeill & Libby, Taku Harbor	7	
Hidden Inlet Canning Co. Hood Bay	5	8
Deep Sea Salmon Co.	1	
Pyramid Packing Co.	6	10
Superior Fisheries	4	5
Petersburg Pkg. Co.	8	8
Fidalgo Island Pkg. Co. Pillar Bay	4	6
Sebastian Stuart, Tyee	2	6
	<u>59</u>	<u>66</u>

The following traps and seine boats were operated during the season in the West coast of Prince of Wales Island, south of Shakan.

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Traps</u>	<u>Seine Boats</u>
Booth Fisheries, Hunter Bay	4	8
Alaska Consolidated Canneries, Rose Inlet	7	15

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Traps</u>	<u>Seine Boats</u>
Hetta Packing Company, Copper Harbor	2	6
Nakat Packing Corporation, Waterfall	9	
Sea-coast Packing Co., Craig	6	12
N. Pacific Trading & Packing Co., Klawock	5	10
Bayview Packing Co., Bayview,		7
C.W. Demmert Packing Co., Klawock	2	6
New England Fish Co., Steamboat Bay	3	9
Karheen Packing Co., Karheen	5	
Nakat Packing Corporation, Warmchuck	7	
John McCallum, Deweyville,	2	
Fidalgo Island Packing Co., Pillar Bay	1	
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Total	53	73
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The run of salmon in the northern district commenced about June 25th increasing until about July 18th at which time it reached the peak and held until the season closed on August 6th.

In the central district the run of salmon commenced on or about July 13th, reaching the peak about July 26th and held until the season closed on August 11th.

While there were very large numbers of fish during the peak of the season, the seine boats did not do well for the reason, in the writer's opinion, that the salmon did not school but held a steady run, although the seiners believe the reason for such a small catch by the seine boats was the salmon sounded. This is true of Chum salmon, but very rarely if at all, do Pink salmon sound. Another reason is that where the seine boats operated, around Point Adolphus north and South Inian Pass, the tides are very strong and a hook could not be held for very long, so the catch of the seine boats was very small compared with what was taken in 1925.

The following are violations committed at Sitka Sound near Biorka Island in the Southern district:

On Sunday June 7, 1926 the Power trolling boats "Agnes D" of Sitka, Chas. Daniels owner. "T 136 of Sitka operated by Ray James, Frank Price owner. "Anny" of Juneau, Jim Marks & William Marks, owners. "Ruth B" of Sitka, Harold Baily, owner and "U" 647 of Sitka, J Cobb and A. Phil owners, were found trolling during the weekly closed season. The boats were taken to Sitka and complaint filed with the Commissioner charging the above 8 men with violation of Section 5, Act of Congress approved June 26, 1906 as amended. The Court assessed a fine of \$20.00 and costs of \$1.45 each.

In the northern district the following traps were seized for violation of Section 5, Act of Congress approved June 26, 1906, as amended:

On June 27, 1926, the Booth Fisheries floating trap No. 4 T.L. 26-165 located 2 3/4 miles E. 1/2 N. from the southeast end of the large Porpoise Island in Icy Strait.

On July 11, 1926, P.E. Harriw & Co. floating trap No. 1 T.L. 26-138, located on the east shore of Chatham Strait, Admiralty Island, 3/4 mile north from mouth of Hawk Inlet.

On July 11, 1926, Alaska Pacific Fisheries floating trap No. 4 T.L. 26-364 located 1/4 mile south of Funter Bay in Chatham Strait, operated by the Alaska Consolidated Canneries at Tenakee.

On July 12, 1926 the Gas Screw seine boat "Mary V" of Tenakee owned by James Kasko was seized for violation of Section 5 Act of Congress approved June 26, 1906 as amended. Committed on July 5, 1926 inside the markers or at mouth of Creek at Hawk Inlet. The "Mary V" was sold and bid in for \$575 dollars.

Amel Larsen, trap watchman on the Booth Fisheries floating trap No. 4 T.L. 26-165 plead guilty on July 3rd to the violation of Section 5, Act of Congress approved June 26, 1906 as amended, and on July 12, 1926 the Court assessed a fine

of \$100. and costs of \$13. which were paid. The trap was sold at auction on July 9, 1926 for \$1375. and was bid in by the Booth Fisheries Company.

The trap watchmen on the P.E. Harris floating trap No. 1 T.L. 26-138, and on the Alaska Pacific Fisheries floating trap No. 4 T.L. 26-364 were found Not Guilty, but the traps are still in possession of the Marshal under the direction of the Court.

The following are violations committed on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island:

On Sept. 20, 1926, the seine boat "Rainier" owned by the Booth Fisheries and the seine boat "Kotor" owned by James Young, a native of Kasagan, Alaska, were found fishing less than 100 yards of each other, at the head of Keete Inlet. Neither crew would admit to being the first to have set their seine, each crew claiming that they set about the same time. Both boats were seized for violation of Section 3, Act of Congress approved June 26, 1906 as amended, and towed to Craig where complaints were filed before the Commissioner. On September 25, 1926, the crews of both the "Rainier" and "Kotor" plead guilty to fishing less than 100 yards of each other and each member of the crews were fined \$10.00 and costs of 46 cents each. All fines were paid and the Court released the boats and gear. Both crews were Indians.

On September 27, 1926, at Hydaburg, the gas boat "Silver Wave" and gas boat "902" T with seine skiff, were found fishing less than 100 yards of each other, neither boat admitting that they were the first to set their seine. Both boats were seized and towed to Craig where complaint was filed. On Sept. 29, 1926, both crews plead guilty, the four men of the crew on the "Silver Wave" were fine \$15. each and costs of 92 cents. All fines and costs were paid and the Court released the boats and gear. Both crews were Indians.

The services of the stream watchmen were terminated on the following dates:

Central District: * August 10, 1926 - 1
 " 12, 1926 - 2
 " 13, 1926 - 5
 " 14, 1926 - 2
 " 15, 1926 - 1
 " 18, 1926 - 2
 " 20, 1926 - 2

Northern District: August 11, 1926 - 3
 " 13, 1926 - 3

West Coast of Prince
of Wales: Sept. 30, 1926 - 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The writer recommends that Salt Lake at Takanis Bay be closed to all forms of fishing for the reason that Salt Lagoon is small and on account of the fresh water running into it from the lake above, the salmon stay around for several days when they come in and the gill nets take nearly all of them, very few escaping into the fresh water lake.

It is also recommended that all regulations in regard to Sunday closing, and closing season for salmon in the different districts, apply also to the herring fisheries for the reason that the herring seiners sometimes take many salmon in their seines when fishing on Sunday, which are not turned loose, and also take many salmon after the salmon fisheries are closed down, which are dead when taken out of the seine, and it is alleged that nearly all are thrown overboard which is a waste of food fish.

It is recommended that Nutkaw Lagoon be closed 500 yards outside the foot of the rapids at low tide.

It is also recommended that all waters in Klawak Harbor be closed south of a line commencing at the red light on the reef at the North end of Klawak Island

and running in a North^{ee}west direction to the opposite shore.

It is also recommended that no trap be allowed less than one mile from Staney Creek for the reason that salmon going to Staney Creek school at least one mile along the shore from the mouth of the creek at either side.

It is further recommended that stream watchmen be employed on the West Coast of Prince of Wales Island at Deweyville, Klawack; closed area of Trocadero Bay, and a man to patrol the remainder of the Bay, which is known locally as Big Bay and in which there are 14 creeks, Hetta Inlet, Nutkwa Bay, Keete Inlet, and Klakas Inlet.

Average number of salmon per case.

Red	Coho	Pink	Chum
12,908	9.1	14.38	10.475

Respectfully submitted,

M. J. O'Connor
M.J. O'Connor, Assistant Agent

